Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of March 17, 2003 to March 21, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Manufacturing Shipments ($ millions)	January			In January, Canadian manufacturing shipments increased to the highest monthly output in two years. The gain was widespread, with 13 of 21 industries posting increases, including motor vehicle shipments (+15.4%) and motor vehicle parts (+11.4%). Seven provinces recorded a monthly increase in manufacturing shipments, led by Newfoundland (+9.1%) and Ontario (+5.7%). Prince Edward Island (-3.4%), Manitoba (-2.9%) and British Columbia (-0.4%) were the exceptions.
Alberta	3,772	4.4%	15.1%	
Canada	44,662	3.7%	7.0%	
Wholesale Trade ($ millions)	January			In January, wholesale trade in Alberta remained flat, while Canada increased by 1.8%, an 8.6% rise from a year ago. The largest annual Canadian gains were found in household goods (16.4%) and automotive products (16.0%). Only industrial machinery experienced a decrease (-0.7%). Three provinces recorded yearly decreases in wholesale sales, including Prince Edward Island (-7.2%), Manitoba (-3.8%) and Newfoundland (-0.7%).
Alberta	3,753	0.0%	6.9%	
Canada	36,776	1.8%	8.6%	
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	February			The Canadian CPI was up by 4.6% from February 2002. Higher energy prices (+19.7%) were a major factor in this yearly rise. For Alberta, the annual increase in the CPI was 6.9% (down from 7.1% in January). This increase was led by price increases in tobacco products (+60.9%), vehicle insurance premiums (+59.4%) and natural gas (+51.7%). On a monthly basis, the Alberta CPI was up only 0.3% from January, compared to a 0.7% increase for Canada.
Alberta	129.0	0.3%	6.9%	
Canada	122.3	0.7%	4.6%	